

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/874,738

Examiner

Phuongchau Ba Nguyen

Applicant(s)

MAO ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Terminal Disclaimer 6-28-5.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 31-75; Renumbered as 1-45 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 31-38, the prior art fails to teach an apparatus comprising "said logical label having a value: 1) that will remain fixed during the course of recovery from a failure or degradation event on a ring that affects said signal; and 2) that is reserved for said frame location so as to identify said frame location, said ring being Unidirectional Path Switched Ring (UPSR) or a Bi-directional Line Switched Ring (BLSR)," which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 31.

Regarding claims 39-45, the prior art fails to teach a method comprising "assigning a logical identification label to a location within an outbound frame that transports an egress signal on Unidirectional Path Switched Ring (UPSR) or Bidirectional Line Switched Ring (BLSR) ring, said logical identification label having a value that is reserved for said outbound frame location so as to identify said outbound frame location, and a value that will remain fixed during the course of recovery from a failure or degradation event that affects said

ingress signal,” which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 39.

Regarding claims 46–51, the prior art fails to teach a method comprising “assigning a logical identification label to a location within an outbound frame that transports an egress signal on Unidirectional Path Switched Ring (UPSR) or Bidirectional Line Switched Ring (BLSR) ring, said logical identification label having a value that is reserved for said outbound frame location so as to identify said outbound frame location, and changing said correlation, in response to a networking line failure or degradation event, by replacing said physical identification label with a second physical identification label while keeping said logical identification label unchanged,” which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 46.

Regarding claims 52–60, the prior art fails to teach an apparatus comprising “said logical label having a value that 1) will remain fixed over the course of recovery from a degradation or failure event on said ring that affects said signal and 2) that reserved for said frame location so as to identify said frame location, said ring selected from the group consisting of a Unidirectional

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Path Switched Ring (UPSR) ring; a Bi-directional Line Switched Ring (BLSR) ring,” which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 52.

Regarding claims 61–69, the prior art fails to teach an apparatus comprising “said first logical label having a value: 1) that will remain fixed over the course of recovery from a degradation or failure event that affects said first signal and 2) that is reserved for said location so as to identify said location within said frame that is transmitted upon said first outbound networking line which is a part of a Unidirectional Path Switched Ring (UPSR) or Bi-directional Line Switched Ring (BLSR)” which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 61.

Regarding claims 70–75, the prior art fails to teach a network switch comprising “assigning a logical identification label to a location within an outbound frame that transports an egress signal on a Unidirectional Path Switched Ring (UPSP) or Bi-directional Line Switched Ring (BLSR) ring, said logical identification label having a value that: 1) remains fixed over the course of recovery from a degraded or failed line that assists in sourcing said egress

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signal to said networking switch and 2) uniquely identifies said egress signal,” which is considered in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 70.

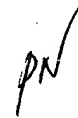
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuongchau Ba Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3148. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on 571-272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Phuongchau Ba Nguyen  
Examiner  
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DUCHO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER



10-14-05